GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
TREATMENT FOR RABIES PATIENTS
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in the country die every year because of Rabies;

(b) whether none survived the affliction of Rabies;

(c) if so, the details of loss of lives thereof in the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the spread of Rabies and to ensure proper treatment to the patients of Rabies?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 314 FOR 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2007

As per the data compiled by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), the number of deaths due to rabies in different States of the country is 556 in the year 2004, 302 in 2005 and 361 in 2006.The number of deaths due to rabies in the last three years is annexed.

Rabies if not treated promptly is almost fatal. Deaths due to rabies can be prevented by prompt and appropriate medical assistance in the form of post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). Post-exposure prophylaxis consists of administration of Anti Rabies vaccine.

Health is a state subject. Therefore, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to ensure proper treatment of rabies patients. The Government of India extends technical support and guidelines for the prevention and management of dog bite cases. The use of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies vaccine by 'intradermal' route has recently been approved so as to economize on the vaccination cost. The anti-rabies vaccines are procured by the State Governments directly from the manufacturing units. In addition, a pilot project for prevention and control of human rabies has been approved under New Initiatives in XIth Five-Year Plan.